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U.S. Application No. 09/749,826 Art Unit 2631
Response to December 16, 2005 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:
 - a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a multimedia content item;
 - a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and
 - a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions, the multimedia-on-demand data table including
 - a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device, and
 - a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with the multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device,

the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed by the processor, the multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to

 - automatically receive the multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second, and
 - send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-demand usage message based at least in part on the multimedia content usage indicator.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include instructions to write the multimedia content item to the mass storage device.

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3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the instructions to receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate includes instructions to automatically receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a storage position identifier for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier received from a service provider and updated by the service provider with each change in the multimedia-on-demand data table.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information appliance for playback.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information appliance for non-volatile recording of the multimedia content item.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information appliance for recording to a non-volatile data storage medium.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes data corresponding to the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage indicator.

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9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage indicator.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes playback cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes purchase cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.
12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a data switch coupled to the mass storage device.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of broadband communication links coupled to the data switch.
14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of information appliances, each information appliance of the plurality of information appliances coupled to a broadband communication link.
15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content item is selected from the group consisting of a movie, a television program, a song, an album, an electronic book.
16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an input/output port coupled to the mass storage device to communicate with a multimedia recording device.

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17. (Previously Presented) A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:
- a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a plurality of multimedia content items;
 - a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and
 - a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions,
 - the multimedia-on-demand data table including a plurality of multimedia content usage records, each multimedia content usage record adapted to include a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with a multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device, and
 - the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed the processor, the multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to
 - automatically receive the plurality of multimedia content items at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second, and
 - send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-demand usage message to be based at least in part on the multimedia-on-demand data table.
18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein each multimedia content usage record is adapted to include a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items stored on the mass storage device.
19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein a multimedia content usage indicator is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and a content unused indicator.

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20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a storage position identifier for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier received from a service provider and updated by the service provider with each change in the multimedia-on-demand data table.
21. (Cancel)
22. (Cancel)
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include instructions to:
- receive a portion of a multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia content item being received at a transmission rate, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate in bytes per second; and
- make a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia content item can begin prior to receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.
24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the determination is based at least in part on the transmission rate and the playback rate.
25. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include instructions to receive the plurality of multimedia content items from a multimedia-on-demand service provider, the multimedia-on-demand service provider selected from the group consisting of a direct broadcast satellite television service provider, a cable television service provider, a terrestrial broadcast television service provider, a wireless broadband data service provider, and a wired broadband data service provider.

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26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

processing an instruction to automatically receiving a first multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second;

storing the first multimedia content item;

modifying a data table to include a first multimedia content item identifier, the first multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the first multimedia content item; and

sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in part on the data table.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

receiving a multimedia content item usage instruction related to the first multimedia content item;

directing usage of the first multimedia content item based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction; and

updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the multimedia content item usage instruction is selected from the group consisting of an instruction to playback the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item viewing transaction, an instruction to export the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item purchase transaction, an instruction to store the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item deferred viewing transaction, and an instruction to allow use of the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item licensing transaction.

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29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction includes storing a first multimedia content item usage indicator, the first multimedia content item usage indicator associated with the first multimedia content identifier.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the multimedia usage report is based at least in part on the first multimedia content item usage indicator.
31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first multimedia content item usage indicator is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and a content licensed indicator.
32. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
 - automatically receiving a second multimedia content item, the second multimedia content item to replace the first multimedia content item;
 - storing the second multimedia content item; and
 - updating the data table to include a second multimedia content item identifier, the second multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the second multimedia content item.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein storing the second multimedia content item includes deleting the first multimedia content item.
34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising receiving a storage position identifier from a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the data table.

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35. (Cancel)

36. (Previously Presented) A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

automatically receiving a portion of a multimedia content item at a transmission rate, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate of the multimedia content item in bytes per second;

storing the portion of the multimedia content item; and

making a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia content item can begin prior to the receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

modifying a data table to include a multimedia content item identifier, the multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the multimedia content item; and

sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in part on the data table and

receiving a storage position identifier from a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the data table.

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38. (Previously Presented) A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

automatically sending a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers, wherein the automatically sending is based at least in part on a subscriber profile, each multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items corresponding to a multimedia content item storage identifier of the plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers, each storage identifier sent by a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the multimedia content items, with each multimedia content item sent at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second; and

receiving a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report including a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item usage indicator corresponding to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein each multimedia content item storage identifier includes a multimedia content item identifier and a multimedia content item storage position identifier.

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40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein automatically sending a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes:

sending a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item identifier and a first multimedia content item storage position, and

subsequently sending a second multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second multimedia content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a processor for multimedia on demand services, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

automatically ~~send~~ receive, based at least in part on a subscriber profile, a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers, each multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items to correspond to a multimedia content item storage identifier of the plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers, with each multimedia content item ~~sent~~ received at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second; and

receive a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report adapted to include a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item usage indicator adapted to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items.

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42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein

each multimedia content item storage identifier includes a multimedia content item identifier and a multimedia content item storage position identifier, each storage position identifier sent by a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the multimedia content items; and

the instructions to automatically send a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes instructions to:

send a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item identifier and a first multimedia content item storage position, and

subsequently send a second multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second multimedia content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting multimedia on demand, comprising:

a data switch interface coupled to a switch port of a data switch, the data switch interface selecting and receiving digital information from a plurality of multimedia sources, the digital information including a storage position identifier from a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider;

a processor for controlling selection of information via the data switch interface;
and

processing logic for processing the received digital information for output.

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44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the processing logic comprises decoder logic that converts digital information.
45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising a radio frequency receiver that receives radio signals.
46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the received radio signals control selection of the digital information.
47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the processing logic comprises decryption logic coupled to the data switch interface that decrypts the digital information received from the data switch.
48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the data switch interface comprises an Ethernet data switch interface that provides an interface to an Ethernet data switch.
49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising a radio frequency receiver that receives radio signals.
50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the data switch interface is coupled to the switch port via a dedicated communications link.
51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the data switch interface is coupled to the switch port via a shared communications link.
52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising a television display displaying the output from the processing logic.